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8/2 - Dec

July 31, 1951

Gen. Walter Bedell Smith
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

While I was in Europe, some officials of the French Government approached me, requesting my help in founding an association in this country which would raise funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the village of Saint-Dié. As you probably recall, Saint-Dié was completely destroyed by the Germans in 1944, after suffering the same fate in World War I. Since, as you may remember, I was born in Metz, which is not very far from Saint-Dié, I have a sentimental interest in helping my former compatriots, and have therefore undertaken this project, besides all the worries I have selling tobacco and Denicotea.

I am enclosing a few newspaper clippings for your information on the background and history of Saint-Dié. I would be greatly honored if you could consider lending your name as a founder-director of the "American Friends of Saint-Dié". Besides myself, we have as directors State Senator Nathaniel Helman; Ed Darr, Vice-President of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company (manufacturers of Camel cigarettes); Clarence Streit, editor of "Freedom and Union", and M. de Berc, President of the French Chamber of Commerce in the United States.

I would be greatly pleased to give you any further documentation required personally. If you could spare a minute for me, just let me know, so that I can come down to see you in Washington.

Thanking you for your consideration, and with best regards to you and Mrs. Smith, I am

Sincerely,

Willy Heineberg

P. S. Do you believe we might be able to interest ☐ in this project? If so, I would appreciate your intervention on our behalf.

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